Disinvestment of Shares of PSUs

1580. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have disinvested the shares of some public sector undertakings;

(b) which are the undertakings Government propose to disinvest soon;

(c) whether it is a fact that the reports have come in the press that some Ministries have obected to the disinvestment in shares of undertakings coming under them; and

(d) if so, which are those Ministries which have objected to the disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present in the following 17 cases the disinvestment has been cleared and the 'Advisors' have been appointed: Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., HTL Ltd., RBL Ltd., Scooters India Ltd., Engineering Projects India Ltd., NEPA Ltd., Hindustan Cables Ltd., Instrumentation Ltd., Bharat Leather Ltd., Air India, Indian Airlines, India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Hindustan Cooper Ltd., and Jessop & Company Ltd. In 2 cases, disinvestment has been cleared but Advisors are yet to be appointed. These are :Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., and MSTC Ltd.

The process of disinvestment is in different stages of implementation in these companies.

(c) and (d) Before a final decision on disinvestment in a PSU is taken, the views of all the concerned departments/ministries are obtained and considered through inter ministerial consultations at various levels. Ministries often suggest amendments and improvements to specific proposals. The final decision is taken by the

Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment—in the meetings of which the concerned administrative ministries invariably participate. There is no disagreement on the policy of disinvestment.

Disinvestment Target

1581. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the disinvestment target fixed by Government;

(b) what modalities have been worked out by Government to achieve the proposed target;

(c) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Petrolcum and Natural Gas are being pressurised to take over some of the refineries in the country to achieve the goal; and

(d) if so, what are the main difficulties being faced by that Ministry to take over these refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The disinvestment target for the current financial year is Rs. 10,000 crore.

(b) Disinvestment process is in various stages of implementation in a number of companies. Government would make all efforts to achieve the disinvestment target for the current financial year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Disinvestment Plan for Strategic Sector

1582. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) which are the public sector undertakings considered to be in the strategic sector;

(b) what is the maximum percentage of disinvestment allowed for the undertakings in this sector;